

1 Claims:

2 1. A computer program product storing computer
3 instructions therein for instructing a computer to
4 perform a process for automatically determining a
5 machine implemented estimated value of an intellectual
6 property portfolio, the program product comprising:

7 a recording medium readable by the computer; and
8 the computer instructions stored on said recording
9 medium instructing the computer to perform the process,
10 the instructions including:

11 (a) storing first objectively determinable
12 characteristics of representative intellectual
13 property portfolios and objectively determinable
14 values corresponding to each of the representative
15 intellectual property portfolios, the first
16 objectively determinable characteristics and the
17 objectively determinable values forming a baseline
18 against which to assess the estimated value of the
19 intellectual property portfolio;

20 (b) analyzing the intellectual property
21 portfolio to determine second objectively
22 determinable characteristics of the intellectual
23 property portfolio to be estimated;

24 (c) deriving first information representing
25 the second objectively determinable
26 characteristics of the intellectual property
27 portfolio to be estimated responsive to said
28 analyzing step (b);

29 (d) retrieving second information
30 representing the first objectively determinable

1 characteristics and the objectively determinable
2 values of the representative intellectual property
3 portfolios; and

4 (e) comparing the first information received
5 from said deriving step (c) to the second
6 information received from said retrieving step (d)
7 producing an estimated value of the intellectual
8 property portfolio when the first information of
9 the intellectual property portfolio is
10 statistically similar to the second information of
11 one of the representative intellectual property
12 portfolios.

13 2. An computer program product according to
14 claim 1, wherein the intellectual property portfolio
15 comprises at least one of patented, trademarked and
16 copyrighted intellectual property.

17 3. An computer program product according to
18 claim 1, wherein at least one of a patent database, a
19 trademark database, a copyright database, a legal
20 reporter database, a current events database and an
21 intellectual property status database are utilized to
22 determine the machine implemented estimated value of
23 the intellectual property portfolio.

24 4. An computer program product according to
25 claim 1,
26 wherein the intellectual property portfolio
27 comprises a patent portfolio including patents, and
28 wherein the first objectively determinable

1 characteristics includes patent information derived
2 from the patents in the patent portfolio comprising at
3 least one of the following: number of claims, length of
4 independent claims, number and dates of references
5 cited, number of classes searched, legal status of the
6 patents, number of years until each of the patents
7 expire, group which examined each of the patents,
8 domestic priority, and foreign priority.

9 5. An computer program product according to
10 claim 4, wherein the patent information further
11 includes frequency with which the patents have been
12 cited as references for other patents.

1 6. An computer program product according to
2 claim 1, further comprising the instruction of weighing
3 each of the first and second objectively determinable
4 characteristics according to predetermined weighing
5 factors producing weighed first and second objectively
6 determinable characteristics, and

7 comparing the weighed first and second objectively
8 determinable characteristics to determine the
9 statistical similarity between the weighed first and
10 second objectively determinable characteristics.

11 7. An computer program product according to
12 claim 1,

13 wherein the intellectual property portfolio
14 includes issued patents, and at least one of trademarks
15 and copyrights, and

16 wherein the first objectively determinable
17 characteristics are derived by analyzing the issued
18 patents, and the at least one of trademarks and
19 copyrights.

20 8. An computer program product according to
21 claim 1, wherein the estimated value of the
22 intellectual property portfolio is derived
23 independently of accounting valuation techniques
24 including cost, market and income approaches.

25 9. An computer program product according to
26 claim 1, wherein the first information of the
27 intellectual property portfolio is determined to be
28 statistically similar to the second information of one

1 of the representative intellectual property portfolios
2 utilizing at least one of a curve fitting technique and
3 a standard deviation technique.

4 10. An computer program product according to
5 claim 1,

6 wherein the first objectively determinable
7 characteristics include first valuation indicators,

8 wherein the first valuation indicators are
9 assigned an importance factor based upon predetermined
10 criteria, and

11 wherein the first valuation indicators are
12 compared to the second objectively determinable
13 characteristics and the estimated value of the
14 intellectual property portfolio is determined
15 responsive to the importance factor of each of the
16 valuation indicators.

17 11. An computer program product according to
18 claim 1, wherein the objectively determinable values of
19 the representative intellectual property portfolios
20 include objectively determinable monetary values which
21 are not determined by said computer program product.

1 12. An computer program product according to
2 claim 10, wherein the objectively determinable monetary
3 values of the representative intellectual property
4 portfolios are determined by at least one of prior
5 adjudication, prior license values, prior purchase
6 values and an accountant evaluation based upon
7 generally acceptable accounting procedures (GAAP) of
8 the representative intellectual property portfolios.

9 13. A computer program product storing computer
10 instructions therein for instructing a computer to
11 perform a process for automatically determining a
12 machine implemented estimated value of an intellectual
13 property portfolio, the program product comprising:

14 a recording medium readable by the computer; and
15 the computer instructions stored on said recording
16 medium instructing the computer to perform the process,
17 the instructions including:

18 (a) analyzing the intellectual property
19 portfolio;

20 (b) deriving first information responsive to
21 said analyzing step (a) based upon the
22 intellectual property portfolio;

23 (c) retrieving empirical data relating to
24 known intellectual property portfolios; and

25 (d) comparing the first information derived
26 in said deriving step (b) to the empirical data
27 retrieved from said retrieving step (c) producing
28 an intellectual property worth indicator
29 indicating the worth of the intellectual property
30 portfolio.

1 14. A computer program product storing computer
2 instructions therein for instructing a computer to
3 perform a process for automatically determining a
4 machine implemented estimated value of an intellectual
5 property portfolio, the program product comprising:
6 a recording medium readable by the computer; and
7 the computer instructions stored on said recording
8 medium instructing the computer to perform the process,
9 the instructions including:

10 (a) analyzing the intellectual property
11 portfolio stored in an intellectual property
12 database;

13 (b) deriving first information responsive to
14 said analyzing step (a) based upon the
15 intellectual property portfolio;

16 (c) retrieving empirical data relating to
17 known intellectual property portfolios; and

18 (d) comparing the first information derived
19 in said deriving step (b) to the empirical data
20 retrieved from said retrieving step (c) producing
21 an intellectual property worth indicator
22 indicating the worth of the intellectual property
23 portfolio,

24 wherein the intellectual property database
25 includes at least one of a patent database, a trademark
26 database, a copyright database, a legal reporter
27 database, a current events database and an intellectual
28 property status database.